

MICUA — MATTERS —

The Newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association



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Five Teachers of the Year Have Ties to MICUA Institutions

Each year, Maryland's 24 local school systems honor their exceptional teachers through the Teacher of the Year program. For the 2024-2025 year, five alumni from MICUA member institutions were named Teacher of the Year at the county level: **Hood College** graduate: Brittany Collins (Washington County); **Johns Hopkins University** graduate: Kat Locke-Jones (Baltimore City); **McDaniel College** graduate: Brian Thompson (Carroll County); and Washington College graduates: Stephanie Gerhold (Baltimore County) and Megan Borga (Queen Anne's County). On October 4, 2024, at the annual Maryland State Department of Education Teacher of the Year Gala, Kat Locke-Jones was named the Maryland Teacher of the Year!

For the last six years, the Maryland State Teacher of the Year has received a degree or certificate from a MICUA institution.

Of MICUA's 13 members, 11 prepare highly qualified teachers for Maryland primary and secondary education classrooms through State-approved teacher preparation programs. Over the last five years, MICUA institutions have awarded over 12,000 Education degrees and certificates. Across all degree levels, MICUA institutions awarded 50% of the Education degrees, at or above the bachelor's degree, in the State.

Maryland Teacher of the Year



Brittany Collins
Waverly Elementary School
Washington County
Hood College (master's)



Kat Locke-Jones
Hampstead Hill Academy
Baltimore City
Johns Hopkins University (master's)



Brian Thompson
Westminster Elementary School
Carroll County
McDaniel College (certificate, master's)



Stephanie Gerhold
Woodlawn Middle School
Baltimore County
Washington College (bachelor's)



Megan Borga
Kennard Elementary School
Queen Anne's County
Washington College (bachelor's)

Capitol Tech Announces New, First-of-its-Kind Artificial Intelligence Program in Maryland



Capitol Technology University is proud to announce a groundbreaking addition to its academic offerings: a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

As the first university in Maryland to provide an opportunity to explore this emerging field of study at the bachelor's level, Capitol Tech is excited for what the future of AI may bring.

“Our University is proud to have introduced Maryland's first Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence,” stated Dr. Bradford L. Sims, President. “This pioneering program highlights our unwavering dedication to driving forward technological education. By equipping students with the essential skills and knowledge to master the intricacies of AI, we are shaping the future trailblazers and visionaries poised to lead in this rapidly evolving domain.”

The program features hands-on learning experiences, including state-of-the-art laboratories, collaborative research projects, and exploration of the technical and ethical aspects of AI. Students work alongside faculty and experts in the field, gaining practical insights, real-world experience, and internship opportunities. The University's new AI Center of Excellence (AICE) supports this program as well, providing access to equipment, events, and an advisory board of top AI professionals. This innovative program is ideal for students with an interest in computer and data science, software engineering, machine learning, and artificial intelligence careers.

“AI is revolutionizing virtually every industry, from healthcare and finance to entertainment and cybersecurity,” said Dr. Najam Hassan, Chair of Computer and Data Science. “Our new Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence program offers a robust foundation in both the theoretical and practical aspects of AI, equipping students to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities in this rapidly evolving field.”



Capitol Tech Leadership visits AI Center of Excellence at launch ceremony.



Capitol Tech students Ivan Mendez and Max Rosenthal demonstrate AI software program.

Goucher College and Edenwald Senior Living Announce Maryland's First University Retirement Community

Goucher College and Edenwald Senior Living have announced plans for the first university retirement community (URC) in Maryland, combining lifelong learning and programming from a college with the attractive residences, services, and amenities of a Life Plan Community.

Goucher and Edenwald will expand their decades-long relationship to offer robust integrated URC programming on a shared campus. Goucher will offer unique educational and cultural activities for all current and new Edenwald residents, including the ability to participate in international study abroad programs, audit Goucher College classes, and collaborate in a cooperative community garden. Edenwald residents will also have access to other amenities on the Goucher College campus, including use of the library and attending performing arts events.

Edenwald will add 127 new apartments, common spaces, indoor parking, and other amenities in three new 8- to 10-story towers comprising over 284,000 square feet of new construction on three acres of land leased from Goucher College. Programming will be piloted with current Edenwald residents in the 2024-2025 academic year with plans to expand a host of new services over the next few years in time for the new URC facility's debut.

Edenwald, founded originally in 1881 as the German Aged People's Home of Baltimore, relocated to Towson in 1985 on land acquired from Goucher College.

"This partnership builds on a 140-year legacy of educational innovation at Goucher College," says Goucher College President Kent Devereaux. "Founded as a leader in higher education for women, today Goucher remains one of only two colleges in America to require 100% of its students to study abroad as part of its commitment to global education. Now, Goucher will be the first in Maryland to bring that same innovation and commitment to academic excellence to a life plan community by creating the first university retirement community in Maryland with Edenwald, our long-time neighbor."



Goucher College's campus

Hood Biology Major Gets Hands-On Experience at National Cancer Institute



Riana Caldwell '25 recently participated in a summer internship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) focusing on veterinary medicine.

Caldwell shadowed and assisted lab animal technicians and veterinarians on their daily rounds, prepped for surgeries, delivered medicine and performed status checks on various animals, while also operating advanced lab equipment and mastering highly technical terminology.

“I wanted to experience a different perspective of how veterinary medicine can be applied to animal health and explore a path that I could take as an aspiring veterinarian,” said Caldwell.

James Cherry, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at Hood, connected Caldwell with the NCI after she was recommended by faculty. Cherry said that Caldwell’s enthusiasm and eagerness to learn made her stand out, and he instantly recognized her potential for the internship.

“Riana was so passionate about wanting to be a vet. She was hungry to get as much mentoring and exposure as she could,” said Cherry. “She wanted to be in a lab and be around vets who could teach her.”

Cherry noted the importance of internships in applying theory to practice, especially in today’s rapidly evolving world.

“Riana is now going to have an opportunity to say, ‘I’ve seen what vets do when they give a steroid treatment. I’ve seen how they apply a topical ointment.’ She’s going to understand what the book has told her because she’s now seen it.”



Riana Caldwell '25 inspects plates through a microscope at the National Cancer Institute.



Riana Caldwell '25 in the lab at the National Cancer Institute

JHU New Student Orientation Devotes a Day to Democracy

As the Fall Semester commenced at Johns Hopkins University – amid a busy week of dorm gatherings, dining hall socials, and outings to local hotspots – the orientation program for the Class of 2028 dedicated an entire day to what it means and looks like to engage not just in the rudiments of campus life but in a higher calling: the tenets of democracy.

“Admittedly, this day might seem like an abrupt left turn from where you’ve been focused, but that wouldn’t be true,” JHU President [Ron Daniels](#) told the roughly 1,300 new students at the University’s fourth annual Democracy Day. “We are doing this because we believe that universities have a central role to play in preparing you for the responsibilities of democratic participation.”

The event was launched in 2021 by the University’s [Center for Social Concern](#), the Orientation team, and the [SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins](#) to introduce first-year students to the democratic process and the critical roles they play in shaping their communities and world.

Democracy Day and its objectives are core to the overall experience at Johns Hopkins, Daniels said, and necessary in an era of heightened political polarization and threats to democracy worldwide.

“During your time here ... you’ll expand your capacity to bridge and work across differences, backgrounds, perspectives, values, and goals held by your fellow students, even when those goals [and] values come into conflict and are different for one another,” Daniels said.

These skills, he continued, are vital to “a healthy and functioning democracy ... [and] will help us guard against the prospect of poisonous distrust and polarization that exacerbate our differences and prevent us from drawing strength from one another.”

This year’s incoming class, made up of students from 35 countries, 46 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories, sat in rows of chairs that nearly filled the gymnasium floor of the Ralph S. O’Connor Center for Recreation and Well-Being. Throughout the morning, they listened to faculty, staff, and returning Hopkins students discuss the tenets of democracy and opportunities across campus and in Baltimore to get involved, while taking part in activities to cultivate and practice civil discourse.



SNF Agora Institute Director Habrie Han speaks with Johns Hopkins students during Democracy Day.



Students gathered at Hopkins for Democracy Day

Loyola Names Inaugural Director of New Bachelor of Science in Nursing program



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Sharon P. O'Neill, DNP, J.D., CRNP, has been named the inaugural director of Loyola University Maryland's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. O'Neill, who was selected after a national search, is an experienced leader in the field of nursing education.

Loyola is preparing to welcome the first BSN cohort in Fall of 2025. The program is offered through a collaborative partnership with Mercy Medical Center, which will provide clinical placements at Mercy's downtown Baltimore campus.

"I am thrilled to join the Loyola community," said Dr. O'Neill, who is a Baltimore native. "Our hard work has already begun, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with our faculty, staff, and administrators—as well as our partners at Mercy Medical Center—to develop and implement a state-of-the-art BSN program which will prepare our nursing students to go out into the world and do good for others."

Prior to joining Loyola, O'Neill served in administrative and teaching capacities at several prestigious institutions, including most recently as a clinical associate professor at New York University's Rory Meyers College of Nursing from 2021-24. She also worked at the University of Southern California from 2015-21 and The Johns Hopkins University from 2000-15.

Loyola's BSN degree program, which has been approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Board of Nursing, is uniquely designed to integrate an exceptional liberal arts foundation with a holistic nursing education, steeped in the Jesuit tradition of care and social justice. More information can be found on [Loyola's website](#).



Sharon P. O'Neill, DNP, J.D., CRNP, director of Loyola University Maryland's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.



MICA Announces Cecilia M. McCormick, J.D., as School's New President

The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) has appointed Cecilia M. McCormick, J.D., as its new president following her interim role. McCormick will lead MICA into a new phase of growth and innovation as the School prepares to enter its third century.



Cecilia M. McCormick, J.D., President of the Maryland Institute College of Art

McCormick previously served as the first female president of Elizabethtown College and has a proven track record of driving financial stability and enrollment growth. Her leadership at Thomas Jefferson University highlights her ability to integrate education with community and workforce development.

Since taking on the interim role, McCormick has spearheaded MICA's resurgence from the pandemic by implementing innovative strategies to close financial gaps and boost enrollment. Under her leadership, the College has introduced a new media arts department, the MOSAIC Center for Diversity, Equity, and Community, and will be launching new degree and non-degree programs in the coming years.

As MICA approaches its bicentennial in 2026, McCormick's presidency promises to mark the beginning of a new chapter in the school's history. The institution continues to be a top producer of Fulbright U.S. students and is focused on creative impact — combining innovation and entrepreneurship with contemporary art and design approaches.

A first generation college graduate, McCormick holds a bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's University, a Juris Doctorate from Delaware Law School, and post-doctoral education from the Institute of Educational Management at Harvard University. She and her husband, John, have three sons, three daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren.



The Maryland Institute College of Art's campus

McDaniel College Announces Plans to Develop Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy

MCDANIEL
COLLEGE

McDaniel College has announced the development of a new Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. The program, which has received approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), is expected to begin in summer 2026, pending approval by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

The inaugural program director is Cathy Felmlee Shanholtz. She serves as a U.S. delegate for the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and is associate editor for AAIDD's quarterly peer-reviewed journal *Inclusion*. Additionally, she is an American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) credential leader in academics and a roster of accreditation evaluator (RAE) for ACOTE.

McDaniel introduced a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences in 2020, which includes an Occupational Therapy specialization, and a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) which begins at the College this fall 2024. The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy is the second graduate program in health professions to be offered at McDaniel (The College offers a Master of Science in Counseling - Clinical Mental Health Counseling).

The Occupational Therapy program will be campus-based for the first year with classes available to be completed in an online or hybrid format in the second year to allow for flexible scheduling during the required clinical fieldwork experience.

"Occupational therapists are in high demand and this new graduate program aligns with the College's current strategic plan by continuing to offer programs that fill a community need and are of interest to our students," said Vickie Mazer, dean of Graduate and Professional Studies at McDaniel.



Cathy Felmlee Shanholtz, inaugural Occupational Therapy program director



McDaniel College's Merritt Hall will house the Occupational Therapy program.



Mount St. Mary's Launches Ethical Leaders Program

This fall, Mount St. Mary's University is introducing the Ethical Leaders Program, designed to fully incorporate experiential learning, leadership and service into academic life at the University.

As the name implies, the program seeks to help students truly live out the ethics they are taught in the Core Curriculum, and that form the basis of the Mount's mission.

Four virtues are paired with four experiential learning opportunities the Mount provides—the virtue of justice corresponds with service learning, courage with student leadership, integrity with internships, and humility with study abroad. Additionally, Origins of the West, Foundations of Philosophy, and Theological/Philosophical Ethics, all core classes that explore these four virtues in the classroom, are adding assignments that explicitly connect with co-curricular learning.

“The Ethical Leaders Program represents the culmination of a great deal of work by faculty and administrators to integrate the values of our Core Curriculum with formative experiential learning,” said Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Theology Love Sechrest, Ph.D. “We are committed to investing in our students’ character growth inside and outside of the classroom.”

Students will choose which “tier” of the program they’d like to complete. The Holistic Tier, which is required to graduate, beginning with the Class of 2028, and integrated into the curriculum, will involve participating in an activity tied to one of the experiential learning opportunities. The Medallion Tier, an optional honors track, requires two experiential learning activities, service learning and student leadership, along with active engagement on campus.

The benefits of the program are manifold. Mount students will have more opportunities than ever to get involved in campus life and grow their community as well as put into practice what they learn in the classroom. Students will encounter a variety of challenges and new experiences that empower them to become conscientious leaders.



Special Olympics Maryland Fall Sports Fest, held at Mount St. Mary's every October for the past 35 years



Julianna Roman, a Maryland Public Service Scholar in the Governor's Summer Internship Program

\$2.2M Renovation to NDMU's Primary Outdoor Field Includes New Turf Playing Surface



NOTRE DAME
OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY

Notre Dame of Maryland University's primary outdoor athletics field underwent a \$2.2 million renovation this summer, funded by the historic \$50 million Go Beyond campaign, with the installation of a new turf surface which will provide substantial benefits to both the Athletics Department and the general campus community.

Construction of the new turf playing surface concluded in August. In addition to the turf field itself, the project included an upgraded stormwater drainage system, a new retaining wall and fencing along the road side of the facility, and replacement netting behind the goals.

"We are very excited for the addition of the turf field, as it will provide our student-athletes with the opportunity to train on the surface that they most-frequently play on," said Dr. Ashley Wagner, director of athletics and wellness at NDMU. "This addition will increase our competitiveness in the United East Conference, attracting more student-athletes on the recruiting trail."

The field, now known as Notre Dame Athletic Field, Sponsored by the SSNDs following a Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony in September, serves as the current home for NDMU's women's lacrosse, women's soccer, and men's soccer programs, and it will be the future home for a men's lacrosse team expected to begin play in the 2025-26 academic year.

Installation of the turf field completed another major priority of NDMU's Go Beyond campaign, which launched in fall 2018 and successfully concluded this summer after raising more than \$52.6 million. It generated record-breaking funding for student scholarships, faculty research, and the University's endowment, while supporting facility enhancements across campus, including a recent \$9 million renovation to the Knott Science and Innovation Center.



Notre Dame of Maryland University's outdoor athletics field



ST JOHN'S
College

St. John's College Launches Poets in the Conversation Room Series in Partnership with Annapolis Home Magazine

St. John's College, in collaboration with *Annapolis Home Magazine*, recently launched a new poetry series hosted by renowned poet, author, playwright, and tenth Maryland Poet Laureate Grace Cavalieri.

Running from August through December, Poets in the Conversation Room spotlights a variety of award-winning poets including David Keplinger, Carolyn Forché, Remica Bingham-Risher, and Andrew Wong.

"There couldn't be a more fitting partnership for the College than Poets in the Conversation Room," said President Nora Demleitner. "At the College, students spend four years reading and discussing great classical poets – from Homer to Baudelaire. This is a wonderful opportunity to expose them to more modern poetry while also welcoming and engaging the Annapolis community."

The College kicked off the series this August with a reception and book signing with David Keplinger, the first poet in this series. Keplinger, the head of American University's poetry MFA, is the author of several poetry collections, most recently *Ice* (Milkweed Editions, 2023). His readings that day prompted dialogue about the role of poetry in the realm of modernity as well as questions about the creative process and what it means to be a poet.

Future installments of Poets in the Conversation Room will be held on the first Saturday of every month at 2 p.m. in the St. John's College Conversation Room in Mellon Hall. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; works by poets will be on display at the St. John's College Greenfield Library and available for purchase at the St. John's College Bookstore. Additional readings are being planned for spring 2025. For more information, visit annapolishomemag.com/poets-in-the-conversation-room.



Poets in the Conversation Room

Stevenson Biomedical Engineering Graduate Researching Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) on Dementia



Stevenson University alumnus Jai Raccioppi '24 is currently conducting research on the connection between traumatic brain injury (TBI), Alzheimer's disease, and related dementia at the University of Florida. This research is more than just part of Jai's Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. program—it's personal.

"Before my grandfather passed away, he received treatment and imaging for potential neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's," Jai said. "In the same hospital, I hope to advance the knowledge on how these neurodegenerative disorders develop and discover a new measure to prevent them. Stevenson has prepared me perfectly for this next step."

For his research, Jai was recently awarded the prestigious McKnight Doctoral Fellowship by the Florida Education Fund.

"Jai is a great example of what we expect from all of the students in Stevenson's Biomedical Engineering program," said Neil Rothman, Biomedical Engineering Program Advisor. "It has been a pleasure having him in our program and we expect great things from him as he pursues his Ph.D. and beyond."

Stevenson's Biomedical Engineering program has grown significantly since accepting its first students in 2019. This past February, Stevenson opened the dedicated Biomedical Engineering Lab within the new Kahlert Foundation Makerspace. And, at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year, the program received accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).



The Biomedical Engineering Lab in the Kahlert Foundation Makerspace gives Stevenson University students hands-on experience in the field.



Biomedical Engineering students use 3D printers and tools in Stevenson University's Kahlert Foundation Makerspace to bring ideas to life.

WAU Men's Soccer Team Partners with Small Things Matter in Takoma Park Community Initiative

The Washington Adventist University (WAU) Men's Soccer team has launched a new community partnership with the local non-profit organization, Small Things Matter, as part of the University's "Champions of Character" initiative. The partnership aims to engage student-athletes in volunteer service, provide essential food staples for the campus community, and increase the University's visibility within the local area.

On a recent afternoon, four members of the WAU Men's Soccer team assisted Small Things Matter by moving and packing food for distribution. The team's involvement is part of a broader initiative to instill a sense of responsibility and servant leadership in student-athletes.

"My purpose in partnering is to volunteer our athletes to help Small Things Matter as part of our 'Champions of Character' initiative," said WAU Head Soccer Coach Daniel Carroll. "This partnership allows our athletes to volunteer their time and energy, gain a sense of responsibility, and learn servant leadership."

In addition to volunteer work, the partnership aims to ensure that WAU athletes and the broader student body have access to essential food staples through the University's pantry. Small Things Matter will help stock the pantry with fresh produce and other necessities, addressing food insecurity on campus.

The partnership also seeks to make WAU a distribution point for local families in need, providing them with fresh fruit and vegetables directly from the University's soccer field. This initiative will bring the campus closer to the surrounding community, offering vital support to those who need it most. As the partnership develops, WAU hopes to continue fostering strong ties with the local community, demonstrating the University's commitment to service and outreach.



WAU soccer players volunteering at Small Things Matter's food distribution event

Washington College to Launch Business School



Plans are underway for Washington College to create The Warehime School of Global Business, Economics, and Social Impact, made possible by the largest donation from an individual in the College's 242-year history: a \$15 million gift from Elizabeth Warehime Rizakos '13.

This new School will provide a unique business education by leveraging expertise and research in interdisciplinary partnerships, the liberal arts, the global nature of business, and social impacts. The school will foster collaborations between the College's business management, economics, world languages and cultures, and international studies programs.

"This generous gift from Beth Warehime showcases the lasting impact Washington College has on its graduates," said President Mike Sosulski. "This new School will serve our students well as they embark on a true liberal arts education that encourages a global approach to business."

The idea for a business school with real-world applications has been in the works for some time. Michael Harvey, special assistant to the president for strategic initiatives and a business professor, has worked closely with Caddie Putnam Rankin, business management department chair, and business department faculty in laying the groundwork for this initiative.




Elizabeth Warehime Rizakos '13


"The support of Beth Warehime and her family has transformed our vision for business education at Washington College," said Putnam Rankin. "Her continued support allows us to envision a future where we will activate the liberal arts to transform business education through interdisciplinary partnerships and global contexts."


"I am so excited to bring this idea to life for the College. After hearing the thoughts and plans from Caddie and Michael, I knew this absolutely had to happen," said Warehime Rizakos of her generous gift. "My own experience at Washington College was incredibly interdisciplinary, and I can't wait for others to have an even better experience within the Warehime School."


A member of the Washington College Board of Visitors and Governors, Warehime Rizakos established the Warehime Fund for Student Excellence in Business in 2019 through a \$1 million grant to Washington College from the JHC Foundation, a Warehime family foundation. The gift provides \$50,000 a year to support professional networking, start-up funds for student entrepreneurial projects, and a Warehime Fellows program where students, mentored by faculty, do original research, publish in peer-reviewed journals, and attend conferences.


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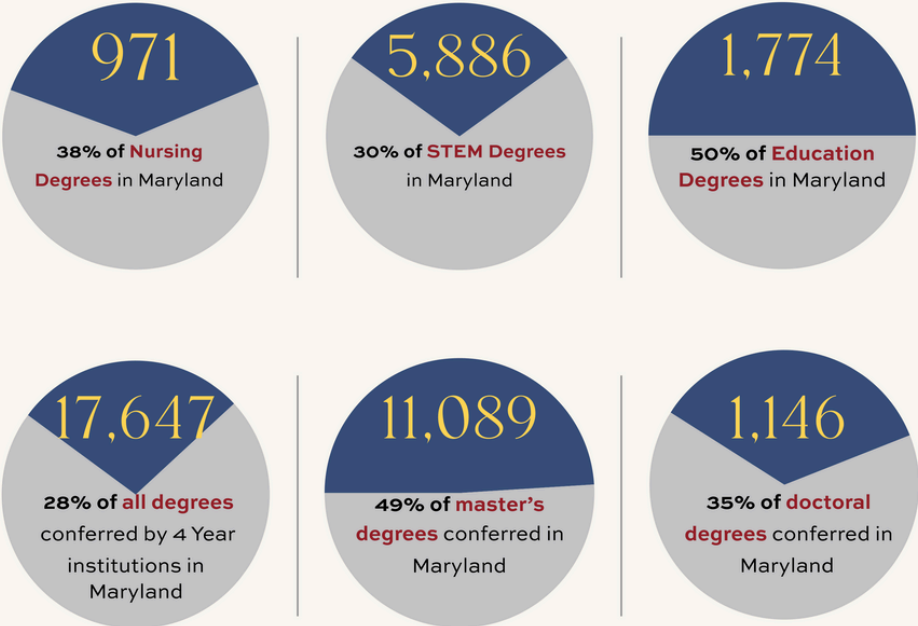
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